

WASHINGTON- Congresswoman Linda T. Sánchez (D-Lakewood) is pleased to have assisted in securing \$100 million for the C-17 program. Working with other members of Congress from the Los Angeles area, the funds were secured in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery (H.R. 4939) which passed the U.S. House of Representatives today by a vote of 348-71. The funds signify the Defense Department's growing commitment to continue construction of the C-17 aircraft through Fiscal Year 2008.

"We are very excited to hear that we were able to secure \$100 million for C-17 construction," said Congresswoman Sánchez. "The C-17 plays a very important role in our national security strategy and humanitarian relief efforts and is the only plane of its type that can bring heavy equipment to the battle front or disaster areas. We need these planes-there is no question. This funding is a first step in keeping C-17 production in Long Beach," added Sánchez.

In addition to funding the C-17's, this bill also provides funding for electronic countermeasures for the aircraft which aids in protecting it from enemy surveillance. Currently, the C-17 is being flown 160 percent more than usual, to deliver supplies for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and humanitarian missions. Boeing is the primary manufacturer of C-17 aircraft and its production facility is located in Long Beach, California. Approximately 7,000 people work at the Long Beach assembly plant.